

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
SNAPPER GROUPEL COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Charleston, SC
October 2-3, 2018

The Committee approved minutes from the June 2018 meeting and the agenda.

Status of Commercial & Recreational Catches versus Quotas for Species under ACLs

NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) staff delivered briefings to the Committee on the status of commercial landings relative to ACLs as of 9/24/18. Of note: hogfish landings in east Florida/Florida Keys were at 88% of the ACL, red snapper landings were at 62% of the ACL, and vermilion snapper landings for Season 2 were at 53% of the ACL.

Status of Amendments under Formal Review

SERO staff updated the Committee on the status amendments currently under review:

- Amendment 43 (Red Snapper): Final Rule (FR) published on 7/26/18
- Abbreviated Framework Amendment 1 (Red Grouper): The final rule published on 7/26/2018 and regulations became effective on 8/27/2018.
- Regulatory Amendment 28 (Golden Tilefish): Proposed Rule published on 9/27/2018 and the comment period is through 10/12/2018. It is expected that regulations would be in place at the beginning of January 2019.
- Golden tilefish interim rule: Fishing levels established through the interim rule will expire on 1/3/2019.

Regulatory Amendment 29 – (Best Fishing Practices and Powerheads)

At the June 2018 meeting, the Council directed staff to continue to work on actions to address the use of best fishing practices and powerhead regulations in a framework amendment and approved it for public scoping. Scoping hearings were conducted on August 7 and 8, 2018 via webinar. The Committee reviewed public scoping comments, provided the following guidance and made the following motions:

GUIDANCE:

- Update the definition of descending devices based on the latest definition used in the Gulf.
- Codified text for this amendment will need to be very specific and input from the Law Enforcement AP and the USCG will be important.
- Monica Smit-Brunello (NOAA GC) offered to consult with other attorneys and bring back feedback to the Council regarding language that might increase enforceability of proposed regulations.
- The proposed coordinates off Key Largo under Action 2 may not be appropriate. Staff will be provided an alternative to include instead.
- A suggestion was made to include information under Action 2 on other types of corrosion resistant hooks that are not stainless steel.

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE SUGGESTED PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT.

The *purpose* is to modify gear requirements for the snapper grouper fishery to promote best fishing practices and to ensure consistent regulations for the dive component of the snapper grouper fishery.

The *need* is to reduce discards and discard mortality of snapper grouper species and to decrease the burden of compliance with differing regulations for the dive component of the snapper grouper fishery while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2: APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF ACTION 1/ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH 3 IN SNAPPER GROUPER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 29 AS MODIFIED.

Action 1. *Specify requirements for the use of **DESCENDING** devices** and/or **VENTING** devices* when possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit.*

Alternative 1 (No Action). ~~Descending devices and/or venting devices~~ are not required to be onboard a vessel possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit.

Alternative 2. Require a *descending device*** be onboard a vessel possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit.

Sub-alternative 2a. private recreational

Sub-alternative 2b. for-hire vessels.

Sub-alternative 2c. commercially permitted South Atlantic snapper grouper vessels.

Alternative 3. Require a *venting device** be onboard a vessel possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit.

Sub-alternative 3a. private recreational.

Sub-alternative 3b. for-hire vessels.

Sub-alternative 3c. commercially permitted South Atlantic snapper grouper vessels.

~~**Alternative 4.** Require a **DESCENDING** device* or a **VENTING** device** be onboard a vessel possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit.~~

~~**Sub-alternative 3a.** private recreational and for hire vessels.~~

~~**Sub-alternative 3b.** commercially permitted South Atlantic snapper grouper vessels.~~

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #3: APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF ACTION 2/ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH 6 IN SNAPPER GROUPER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 29 AS MODIFIED.

Action 2. *Modify the requirement for the use of non-stainless-steel circle hooks when fishing for and/or possessing snapper grouper species with hook-and-line gear.*

Alternative 1 (No Action). Use of non-stainless-steel circle hooks is required when fishing for and/or possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit with hook-and-line gear and natural baits north of 28 degrees north latitude.

Alternative 2. Require the use of non-stainless-steel circle hooks when fishing for and/or possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit with hook-and-line gear and natural baits in the exclusive economic zone:

~~**Sub-alternative 2a.** north of 25° 09' north latitude on the east coast of Monroe County (approximately Key Largo, Florida).~~

Sub-alternative 2b. throughout the extent of the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction (North Carolina/Virginia border through Key West, Florida).

Alternative 3. Require the use of *non-offset*, non-stainless-steel circle hooks when fishing for and/or possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit with hook-and-line gear and natural baits in the exclusive economic zone:

Sub-alternative 3a. north of 28 degrees north latitude (approximately 25 miles south of Cape Canaveral, Florida).

~~**Sub-alternative 3b.** north of 25° 09' north latitude on the east coast of Monroe County (approximately Key Largo, Florida).~~

Sub-alternative 3c. throughout the extent of the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction (North Carolina/Virginia border through Key West, Florida).

Alternative 4. Require *non-offset*, non-stainless-steel circle hooks be *onboard* a vessel possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit when fishing in the exclusive economic zone:

Sub-alternative 4a. north of 28 degrees north latitude (approximately 25 miles south of Cape Canaveral, Florida).

~~**Sub-alternative 4b.** north of 25° 09' north latitude on the east coast of Monroe County (approximately Key Largo, Florida).~~

Sub-alternative 4c. throughout the extent of the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction (North Carolina/Virginia border through Key West, Florida).

Alternative 5. Remove the requirement for use of non-stainless-steel circle hooks when fishing for and/or possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit with hook-and-line gear and natural baits north of 28 degrees north latitude:

Sub-alternative 5a. private recreational and for-hire vessels.

Sub-alternative 5b. commercially permitted South Atlantic snapper grouper vessels.

Alternative 6. Require the use of non-stainless-steel hooks when fishing for and/or possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit in the exclusive economic zone.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #4: REMOVE ACTION 3/ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH 3 FROM SNAPPER GROUPER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 29.

Action 3. *Specify the allowable rigs when fishing for and/or possessing species in the snapper grouper fishery management unit with hook-and-line gear in the recreational sector.*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE (10 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #5: APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF ACTION 4/ALTERNATIVES 1 THROUGH 3 IN SNAPPER GROUPER REGULATORY AMENDMENT 29 AS MODIFIED.

Action 4. *Adjust powerhead prohibitions in the South Atlantic Region.*

Alternative 1 (No Action). A powerhead may not be used in the exclusive economic zone off South Carolina to harvest South Atlantic snapper grouper. The possession of a mutilated South Atlantic snapper grouper species in or from the exclusive economic zone off South Carolina, and a powerhead is prima facie evidence that such fish was harvested by a powerhead.

Alternative 2. Allow the use of a powerhead for harvest of species in the South Atlantic snapper grouper complex in the exclusive economic zone off South Carolina.

Sub-alternative 2a. private recreational and for-hire vessels.

Sub-alternative 2b. commercially permitted South Atlantic snapper grouper vessels.

Alternative 3. Prohibit the use of a powerhead for harvest of species in South Atlantic snapper grouper complex in the exclusive economic zone of the South Atlantic Region.

Sub-alternative 3a. private recreational and for-hire vessels.

Sub-alternative 3b. commercially permitted South Atlantic snapper grouper vessels.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 (Recreational Management Measures)

The Committee reviewed modifications requested in June. The Committee provided the following guidance and made the following motions:

GUIDANCE:

- The strength of the Gulf Stream off east Florida during summer months makes it difficult for anglers to target deep-water species. The most favorable conditions for targeting deep-water species in South Florida occurs in the winter. A recreational season in the winter would be more favorable for Florida anglers also because winter months experience higher tourism.
- Provide information to Full Council on timing to conduct additional analyses and revising existing analyses with an additional year of data (2017).

MOTION #6: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 1

Action 1. *Establish a deep-water species aggregate*

Alternative 2. Establish a Deep-water Species Aggregate: snowy grouper, misty grouper, yellowedge grouper, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, and wreckfish.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #7: ADD SUB-ALTERNATIVE FOR RECREATIONAL SEASON JANUARY 1 TO END OF FEBRUARY AND SELECT AS AN ADDITIONAL PREFERRED FOR ACTION 2

Action 2. *Specify the recreational season for the deep-water species aggregate*

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #8: ADD ANOTHER SUB-ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 2 FOR A RECREATIONAL SEASON FROM DECEMBER 1 THROUGH JANUARY 31

Action 2. Specify the recreational season for the deep-water species aggregate

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #9: MOVE SUB-ALTERNATIVES 2C AND 2D UNDER ACTION 2 TO THE CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED APPENDIX

Action 2. Specify the recreational season for the deep-water species aggregate

Sub-alternative 2c. July 1 through August 31

Sub-alternative 2d. July 1 through October 31

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #10: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 6

Action 6. Modify the aggregate bag limit for the 20-fish aggregate

Alternative 4. Specify no more than 10 fish can be of any one species within the 20-fish aggregate.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE (7 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED, 1 ABSTENTION)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 27 (Commercial Management Measures)

The Committee reviewed modifications to the amendment requested in June and economic analyses for the proposed actions. The Committee approved the following motions:

GUIDANCE:

- Revise Purpose statement as follows: The purpose of this amendment is to address commercial stakeholder input to enable equitable access for fishermen participating in the snapper grouper fishery, and to minimize discards **TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE WHILE IMPROVING MARKETABILITY FOR SOME SPECIES.**
- Revise language of alternatives under Action 5 (vermillion snapper) to clarify that any unused quota from Season 1 would roll-over to Season 2.

MOTION #11: CHANGE PREFERRED TO ALT 3/SUB-ALT 3A UNDER ACTION 3

Action 3. Establish a commercial split season and modify the commercial trip limit for greater amberjack

Alternative 3. Specify two commercial fishing seasons for greater amberjack. Allocate the commercial annual catch limit for greater amberjack into two quotas: 60% to the period March 1 through August 31 (Season 1) and 40% to the period September 1 through the end of February (Season 2). Any remaining quota from Season 1 would transfer to Season 2. Any remaining quota from Season 2 would not be carried forward. During April each year, no person may sell or purchase a greater amberjack harvested from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone and the harvest and possession limit is one per person per day or one per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

Sub-alternative 3a. Season 1 trip limit equals 1,200 pounds whole weight, Season 2 trip limit equals 1,000 pounds whole weight.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE (10 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED)
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #12: CHANGE PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 5 TO ALTERNATIVE 4/SUB-ALTERNATIVE 4A

Action 5. *Modify the commercial trip limit for vermilion snapper*

Alternative 4. Retain the commercial fishing year for vermilion snapper in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone from January 1 to December 31; and the 50% split quotas of the commercial ACL between the two seasons. Modify the commercial trip limit for both seasons and remove trip-limit reductions:

Sub-alternative 4a. 1,000 pounds gutted weight

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #13: ACCEPT IPT EDITS THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #14: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF SNAPPER GROUPEY REGULATORY AMENDMENT 27 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Amendment 47 (Snapper Grouper For-Hire Permit Modifications)

At the June 2018 meeting, the Committee instructed staff to conduct a round of scoping hearings via webinar. Hearings were held on August 6, 9, and 14, 2018. Additionally, the Committee instructed staff to hold in-person scoping hearings throughout the South Atlantic region in October 2018. The Committee considered public input obtained during scoping and made the following motions:

MOTION #15: DIRECT STAFF TO DISCONTINUE WORK ON AMENDMENT 47.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE (7 IN FAVOR, 5 OPPOSED)
APPROVED BY COUNCIL (7 IN FAVOR, 5 OPPOSED)

Regulatory Amendment 30 (Red grouper Rebuilding)

At the June 2018 meeting, the Committee moved actions from the Vision Blueprint amendments addressing modification to the spawning season closure for red grouper to Regulatory Amendment 30 and also requested that an action be added to establish a commercial trip limit. Staff presented an overview of the work completed to date and public comment was received on this amendment during the Public Comment session on Wednesday, September 19. The Committee made the following motions:

MOTION #16: APPROVE IPT EDITS TO PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENTS:

The *purpose* of this amendment is to modify the rebuilding schedule for red grouper based on the results of the most recent stock assessment; minimize regulatory discards; and extend protection for red grouper during the spawning season.

The *need* of this amendment is to end overfishing and rebuild the red grouper stock; and achieve optimum yield while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic effects.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #17: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 4 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 1.

Action 1: Revise the Rebuilding Schedule for Red Grouper

Alternative 4. Revise the rebuilding schedule to equal the maximum time period allowed to rebuild (Tmax). This would equal 10 years with the rebuilding time period ending in 2027. 2018 would be Year 1.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #18: APPROVE IPT SUGGESTED EDITS ON ACTION 2.

Action 2: Modify the seasonal prohibition on recreational harvest and possession of red grouper in the Exclusive Economic Zone off South Carolina and North Carolina

Preferred Alternative 2. During January through April, no person may fish for, harvest, or possess in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone any shallow-water grouper (gag, black grouper, scamp, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, red hind, rock hind, graysby, or coney). Off North Carolina and South Carolina, revise the timing of these restrictions only for red grouper as follows: Revise the timing of these restrictions only for red grouper in the exclusive economic zone off North Carolina and South Carolina as follows:

Preferred Sub-alternative 2a. January – May (five months)

Sub-alternative 2b. February – May (four months)

Sub-alternative 2c. March – June (four months)

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #19: ADD A SUB-ALTERNATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE 2 UNDER ACTION 2 THAT WOULD ADD A CLOSURE FROM JANUARY THROUGH JUNE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #20: APPROVED SUGGESTED EDITS TO ACTION 3.

Action 3: Modify the seasonal prohibition on commercial harvest and possession and sale and purchase on commercial harvest, possession, sale, and purchase of red grouper in the Exclusive Economic Zone off South Carolina and North Carolina

Preferred Alternative 2. During January through April, no person may fish for, harvest, or possess in or from the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone any shallow-water grouper (gag, black grouper, scamp, red grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, red hind, rock hind, graysby, or coney). Additionally, during January through April, no person may sell or purchase any shallow-water grouper harvested from or possessed in the South Atlantic exclusive economic

zone. ~~Off North Carolina and South Carolina, revise the timing of these restrictions only for red grouper as follows:~~ Revise the timing of these restrictions only for red grouper in the exclusive economic zone off North Carolina and South Carolina as follows:

Preferred Sub-alternative 2a. January – May (five months).

Sub-alternative 2b. February – May (four months).

Sub-alternative 2c. March – June (four months).

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #21: ADD A SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2D TO ENCOMPASS JANUARY THROUGH JUNE.

Action 3: Modify the seasonal prohibition on commercial harvest and possession and sale and purchase on commercial harvest, possession, sale, and purchase of red grouper in the Exclusive Economic Zone off South Carolina and North Carolina

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #22: ADD ACTION 4 AND RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.

Action 4: Establish a commercial trip limit for red grouper harvested in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no commercial trip limit for red grouper harvested in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone.

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial trip limit for red grouper harvested in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone:

Sub-alternative 2a. 75 pounds gutted weight

Sub-alternative 2b. 100 pounds gutted weight

Sub-alternative 2c. 150 pounds gutted weight

Sub-alternative 2d. 200 pounds gutted weight

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #23: SELECT SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2B AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 4.

Action 4: Establish a commercial trip limit for red grouper harvested in the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial trip limit for red grouper harvested in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone:

Sub-alternative 2b. 100 pounds gutted weight

SUBSTITUTE MOTION #23: SELECT SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2D AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 4.

Alternative 2. Establish a commercial trip limit for red grouper harvested in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone:

Sub-alternative 2d. 200 pounds gutted weight

SUBSTITUTE MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

MAIN MOTION APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #24: APPROVE ALL ACTIONS IN REGULATORY AMENDMENT 30, AS MODIFIED, TO CONSIDER FOR FINAL APPROVAL IN DECEMBER 2018
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Regulatory Amendment 32 (Yellowtail Snapper)

In June 2018 the Committee approved the amendment for scoping and hearings were held via webinar on August 14 and 15, 2018. The Committee reviewed scoping comments and preliminary analyses for the proposed action. The Committee made the following motions:

MOTION: ADD AN ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR 90% OF TOTAL ACL WITHOUT IN SEASON CLOSURE FOR REC SECTOR. IF ACL IS MET THEN THE FOLLOWING YEAR IT WOULD DROP DOWN TO 80% OF THE TOTAL ACL
MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION #25: SELECT ALTERNATIVE 3 AS PREFERRED UNDER ACTION 1

Action 1. Revise the In-season Accountability Measures for Yellowtail Snapper

Alternative 3. An in-season closure will occur for the commercial sector if the commercial annual catch limit has been met and the total catch (commercial and recreational) reaches, or is projected to reach, 80% of the total annual catch limit.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #26: ACCEPT RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 1

Action 1. Revise the In-season Accountability Measures for Yellowtail Snapper

Alternative 1 (No Action). The current commercial and recreational in-season accountability measures are to close the respective sector if that sector's annual catch limit is met or is projected to be met.

Alternative 2. An in-season closure will not occur for either sector until the total annual catch limit is met or is projected to be met. Close both sectors when the total annual catch limit is met or is projected to be met.

Alternative 3. An in-season closure will occur for the commercial sector if the commercial annual catch limit has been met and the total catch (commercial and recreational) reaches, or is projected to reach, 80% of the total annual catch limit.

Alternative 4. An in-season closure will occur for the commercial sector if the commercial annual catch limit has been met and the total catch (commercial and recreational) reaches, or is projected to reach, 70% of the total annual catch limit.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Abbreviated Framework 2 (Vermilion Snapper & Black Sea Bass)

In June 2018, the Council received recommendations on fishing levels for vermilion snapper and black sea bass based on the latest SEDAR assessments. The assessments for both species are undergoing revisions to incorporate adjusted recreational landings estimates resulting from changes to the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) effort survey. The Council

expects to receive the results of the revised assessments for vermilion snapper and black sea bass in December 2018. However, the Council did not want to delay adjusting fishing levels for these species and instructed staff to prepare an abbreviated framework amendment that could be approved for formal review in September 2018. Staff reviewed the proposed changes to fishing levels. The Committee made no motions.

MOTION #27: APPROVE SNAPPER GROUPEr ABBREVIATED FRAMEWORK AMENDMENT 2 FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT/CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Agenda Items for October 2018 Snapper Grouper AP Meeting

Input on 2016-2020 Vision Blueprint for the Snapper Grouper Fishery:

- Obtain input from the AP as to how the Council could solicit input from stakeholders on the Vision Blueprint
- Include an overview of items that are still left on the list of actions in the Blueprint and obtain input on where the council should focus in terms of priorities.

Presentation on Permits from SERO – At their Spring 2018 meeting, the AP requested that Permits Office staff deliver a presentation at their fall meeting. Alternatively, the Council could request a presentation at a Council meeting or discuss possibility of an educational webinar hosted by SERO Permits Office. The Committee provided the following guidance:

- Request that a presentation be delivered to the Snapper Grouper Committee during the March 2019 Council meeting and during the subsequent Snapper Grouper AP meeting in April 2019.
- Request that the AP provide specific issues/questions/concerns during their October 2018 to pass along to the SERO Permits Office for March 2019 presentation.
- The Snapper Grouper Committee provided the following items that they would like included in the presentation:
 - What is done to track individuals who attempt to obtain/renew a permit when there's been a violation on a previous permit?
 - If the permit were to be tied to an individual rather than the vessel, would this help in tracking violations?
 - If someone has an outstanding violation and is caught fishing without a permit, is there a way to track that individual attempting to obtain a new permit and prevent them from getting one?
 - It was noted that there have been customer service/training complaints from fishermen
 - Could a permit be issued on a multi-year basis?
 - What would happen if a permit were revoked in a limited access fishery?
 - How do renewal schedules affect the number of active permits?
 - How does NOAA GC know when to revoke a permit? What is the process?

AP Recommendations on developing amendments to include Regulatory Amendment 32 (yellowtail snapper accountability measures), Regulatory Amendment 29 (best fishing practices and powerheads), Regulatory Amendment 30 (red grouper rebuilding and commercial trip limit), Comprehensive ABC Control Rule amendment. Specifically:

- Request AP input (pros, cons, how would various scenarios work out for fishermen, etc.) on SG Committee discussion/considerations on Regulatory Amendment 29, including the proposed line to delineate circle hook regulations
- Request more input on red grouper for actions in Regulatory Amendment 30
- Request more input on Regulatory Amendment 32
- If appropriate, request input on the Comprehensive Recreational Accountability Measures Amendment and the ABC Control Rule Amendment
- Request additional input on Vision Blueprint Regulatory Amendment 26 (specifically on the changes the Committee made)
- Request input on whether to remove almaco jack from the Other Jack's Complex

Other Business

The Committee held discussions on other items pertaining to management of the snapper grouper fishery in the South Atlantic. The Committee provided the following guidance and made the following motions:

MOTION #28: DEVELOP A WHITE PAPER TO LOOK INTO EXTENT OF USE OF SPEARFISHING GEAR IN THE COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SECTORS OF THE SNAPPER GROUPE FISHERY AND EXISTING WAYS TO TRACK ITS USE, AND POTENTIAL BIOLOGICAL/ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS. INCLUDE POSSIBLE WAYS TO REDUCE EFFORT BY MEANS OF A SEASON. ALSO INCLUDE HOW THIS RELATES TO NS5.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

BRING CHARACTERIZATION OF SG COMMERCIAL FISHERY REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL FOR MORE THOROUGH DISCUSSION

LOOK AT INFORMATION IN SNAPPER GROUPE CHARACTERIZATION REPORT AND AP MINUTES/REPORTS TO GIVE THE SG COMMITTEE MORE INFORMATION ON MANAGEMENT APPROACHES FOR MULTI-DAY BOATS

MOTION #29:

APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASKS:

- PREPARE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 29 TO BE APPROVED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS AT MARCH 2019 MEETING
- PREPARE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 32 TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FORMAL REVIEW IN DECEMBER 2018
- UPDATE VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 26 FOR REVIEW IN DECEMBER AND APPROVAL FOR FORMAL REVIEW
- PREPARE VISION BLUEPRINT REGULATORY AMENDMENT 27 FOR SUBMISSION
- REQUEST PRESENTATION FROM SERO PERMITS OFFICE FOR MARCH 2019

- INCLUDE ITEM ON DECEMBER AGENDA TO REVIEW SNAPPER GROUPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY CHARACTERIZATION
- PREPARE WHITE PAPER ON SPEARFISHING FOR THE COUNCIL TO REVIEW IN MARCH OR JUNE 2019
- PREPARE REGULATORY AMENDMENT 30 FOR FORMAL REVIEW IN DECEMBER 2018

APPROVED BY COUNCIL